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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	Austria	REPORT NO.	
SUBJECT	Statement by Soviet Officer Indicating Plans for Soviet Withdrawal from Austria	DATE DISTR.	23 December 1953
		NO. OF PAGES	1
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	

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BY CABLE

- On 19 December 1953, Lt. Col. Aleksandr Arsenyevich Smirnov, deputy commander of the Soviet communications unit at Ebreichsdorf, Lower Austria, stated that the Soviets would be out of Austria by May or June 1954. He added that the expected arrival of dependents of Soviet officers would not affect Soviet plans for a withdrawal from Austria.
- Smirnov's unit reports to Major General Kochetkov (fnu), reportedly chief of the intelligence directorate of the Central Group of Forces.

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Comment: It is not clear whether Smirnov could have advance knowledge of Soviet plans through his official duties.

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